

LAUNCHING OF A LIBERTY SHIP, J.A. JONES SHIPYARD, BRUNSWICK, 1943

Creating a New Museum at the Historic Coast Guard Station to Honor Coastal Georgia's Home Front Efforts During World War II



CIVIL AIR PATROL WORKERS AT MCKINNON AIRPORT ON ST. SIMONS ISLAND, 1942

FDR called America the "Arsenal of Democracy." Following Pearl Harbor, our area became an important component of that arsenal and contributed profoundly to winning the war.

The Coastal Georgia Historical Society's new museum will tell the multi-faceted story of the bold initiatives to protect our coast from German submarines, train fighter pilots in the latest technology, build Liberty Ships to supply our troops overseas and much more.

It will document and preserve the personal narratives of local men and women from diverse backgrounds who rolled up their sleeves and worked diligently on the home front to support those on the battlefield.

Rising to the Challenge

This project will celebrate the national spirit and USNAVY common sense of duty that connects us as Americans. Our mission is to show that the Coastal Georgia community was innovative, industrious and united when the world was at war and so much was at stake. Our goal is to inspire and engage all generations with the stories of ordinary Americans at their collective best during World War II.

A GLYNCO-BASED BLIMP GUARDING OUR COAST



Capturing Wartime Stories with Inspiring **Exhibits and Experiences**

The Society is committed to telling this story by incorporating the latest techniques in exhibit design. We have selected Gallagher & Associates, lead designer of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, to develop innovative, interactive experiences that will educate and engage. Museum visitors will learn that:

- German U-boats prowled the East Coast and torpedoed hundreds of American ships including two off the coast of St. Simons Island
- Blimps from Brunswick's Naval Air Station Glynco helped rescue America from this lethal threat
- Glynco blimp hangars were the largest wooden structures in the world
- Top-secret radar training took place at St. Simons Island's McKinnon Field and the King and Prince Hotel
- Brunswick shipyards built 85 441-foot Liberty Ships between 1943 and 1945, trimming production time per ship from 331 days to 34
- Two Brunswick-built Liberty Ships were named in memory of African American crew members killed when German U-boats sank their ships
- Women were expert Liberty Ship welders

The Coastal Georgia Historical Society will preserve the Historic Coast Guard Station while securing its future as a thriving destination.

Our master plan for the site includes child-friendly outdoor learning areas including an archaeology classroom, all within a beautifully designed landscape. The museum will complete our local story, highlighting the wartime patriotism and enterprise of our coastal community.



THE ST. SIMONS COAST **GUARD STATION, APRIL 1937**

The opening of the Society's new World War II Home Front Museum is scheduled for Fall 2018.

